



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE
***TWO INDIVIDUALS FACE FEDERAL CHARGE
OF CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT
SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN***

SALT LAKE CITY – Two residents of South Salt Lake City are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of children in a federal indictment unsealed late last week in the first case charged as a part of efforts by the Utah Human Trafficking Task Force.

The indictment alleges DeWayne Eugene Hopkins, age 27, and Julia Young, age 19, recruited minor females to work as escorts and profited financially from commercial sex acts performed by the minors. The indictment, returned March 18, 2009, was unsealed late last week after Hopkins and Young were arrested. The FBI and Sandy City Police Department participated in the investigation of the case.

The Utah Human Trafficking Task Force includes two agencies who are receiving funding through the U.S. Department of Justice to support efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases in Utah and to provide support to rescued victims. The Salt Lake City Police Department received the law enforcement grant and the Utah Health and Human Rights Project received money for victim support. Other participating agencies include the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, ICE, the Salt Lake County

Sheriff's Office, and Murray, Midvale, Taylorsville, Cottonwood Heights, Sandy and Draper police departments. Those involved in the task force expect other law enforcement agencies and community groups to become involved as the task force efforts continue to expand in the state.

The indictment alleges Hopkins and Young, who ran the business out of their apartment in South Salt Lake City, recruited minor females to give erotic massages that ended in a sex act. The defendants, according to the indictment, took photographs of the minor females and published them on Internet sites such as craigslist.com; backpage.com; and cityvibe.com to advertise the messages. The indictment, as a part of the conspiracy charge, alleges the pair rented hotel rooms for the minors to use in engaging in commercial sex acts, gave the minors instructions on how much to charge for certain sex acts, handled telephone calls from customers and arranged appointments between the minors and customers, drove the minors to the hotel, collected money for the sex acts, and directed the minors to recruit others for the business.

Both defendants have entered pleas of not guilty and a four-day trial has been set for May 26, 2009, before U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart. Hopkins will remain in custody pending trial. Young, who had a detention hearing Friday, was released on conditions of supervised release. The potential penalty for the charge is up to five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Defendants charged in indictments are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in court.

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**Human Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline:
1.888.3737.888**

What is trafficking in persons?

Under federal law, trafficking is defined as 1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such a sex act is under 18; or 2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Many trafficking victims are forced to work in the sex trade. However, trafficking can also take place in labor situations such as domestic servitude, labor in a prison-like factory, or migrant agricultural work. Whether or not an activity falls under the definition of trafficking depends not only on the type of work victims are made to do, but also on the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain or maintain that work.

There is one exception, however. Trafficking covers the use of minors for commercial sexual activity even if there is no force, fraud, or coercion. Trafficking also covers people who are held against their will to pay off a debt; this is known as peonage. A victim's initial agreement to travel or perform the labor does not allow an employer to later restrict that person's freedom or to use force or threats to obtain repayment.

Information taken from "Trafficking in Persons,
A guide for Non-Governmental Organizations"